

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SOVIET PROPAGANDA ATTACKS ON RFE/RL

1. NOVOY VREMYA #11 OF MARCH 11 CARRIES A TWO-PAGE ARTICLE ON RFE/RL ENTITLED "PROVOCATEURS IN THE ETHER," BY N. USHAKOV, A DOCTOR OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES. ALTHOUGH MUCH OF THE ARTICLE PLAYS THE USUAL ANTI-RFE/RL THEMES, USHAKOV DEVOTES A GOOD DEAL OF SPACE TO REVIEWING A REPORT "ON THE QUESTION OF THE INCOMPATIBILITY OF THE ACTIVITIES OF RADIO STATIONS 'FREE EUROPE' AND 'LIBERTY' WITH THE NORMS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW." THE REPORT WAS WRITTEN BY A WEST GERMAN JURIST, DR. EMIL HOFFMAN. ACCORDING TO THE NOVOYE VREMYA STORY, HOFFMAN'S REPORT WAS PREPARED FOR AND SENT TO ALL STATES PARTICIPATING IN THE CSCE CONFERENCE.

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2. NOT SURPRISINGLY, HOFFMAN FINDS THE RADIO STATIONS' ACTIVITIES INCOMPATIBLE WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW. IN PARTICULAR, HE CLAIMS THEIR ACTIVITIES VIOLATE ARTICLE 2 OF THE UN CHARTER AS WELL AS THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT. THE HOFFMAN REPORT UNDERLINES THE RESPONSIBILITY OF BOTH THE AMERICAN AND WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENTS FOR THE ACTIVITIES OF BOTH RADIO STATIONS

AND ADDS THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS COULD DEMAND THE CESSATION OF THE RADIO BROADCASTS.

3. IZVESTIYA FOR MARCH 15 HAS A STORY ON THE NEW AGREEMENT BETWEEN RFE/RL AND PORTUGAL ON THE USE OF TRANSMITTERS. HEADLINED " IN WHOSE INTERESTS?" THE IZVESTIYA PIECE, BY L. KAMYNIN, NOTES THE ANTI-SOVIET CHARACTER OF THE RADIOS, AND CALLS THEIR EXISTENCE A VIOLATION OF THE CSCE FINAL ACT. THE STORY QUOTES THE "DIARIO DI LISBOA" AGAINST THE RADIOS, AND CONCLUDES BY ASKING RHETORICALLY WHETHER THE CONTRACT WITH THE RADIOS IS REALLY IN PORTUGAL'S BEST INTEREST.

4. COMMENT. THE NOVOYE VREMYA ATTACK ON THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE EXISTENCE AND ACTIVITIES OF RFE/RL, AND ITS USE OF A WESTERN REPORT SHOULD BE SEEN IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PREPARATION FOR THE BELGRADE CSCE REVIEW CONFERENCE. SOVIET PROPAGANDA ATTACKS ON THE RADIOS ARE USUALLY ON THEIR BROADCAST CONTENT, OR FOCUS MORE ON ALL ALLEGED CONNECTION WITH THE CIA AND ON THE FACT THAT EMIGREES MAKE UP A LARGE PROPORTION OF THE RADIOS' STAFFS. THESE POINTS WERE TREATED ONLY IN PASSING IN THE NOVOYE VREMYA PIECE.
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